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Document title : JNC Proposal for STEP Assembly Model of Products

ABSTRACT:

Establishment of neutral assembly model within STEP is quite important and urgent issue from various application viewpoints, such as parametric assembly, assembly/disassembly process planning, kinematic analysis, and tolerance analysis. The objective of the assembly model presented in this document is to establish a neutral representation of assemblies of products, which are composed of sets of components.

KEYWORDS:

Connecting association of components
Hierarchical association of components

COMMENTS TO READER:

This document is a quick version of the previous version for making entities consistent with the latest status of STEP 40 series parts.

OWNER/EDITOR: Nobuhiro SUGIMURA

Address: Osaka Prefecture University
1-1 Gakuencho, Sakai, Osaka 593,
Japan

TEL: +81-722-54-9207

FAX: +81-722-54-9904

E-mail: sugimura@center.osakafu-u.ac.jp

Alternate: Akihiko OHTAKA

Address: Nihon Unisys Co. Ltd.
1-1-1, Toyosu, kohtoh, Tokyo 135, Japan

TEL: +81-3-5546-4784

FAX: +81-3-5546-7810

E-mail: akihiko.ohtaka@unisys.co.jp

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Industrial automation systems and integration – Product data representation and exchange – Part 1xx: Application resources: Mechanical assembly

1 Scope

This part of ISO 10303 specifies the resources to describe the associations among the components of an assembled product.

The followings are within the scope of this part of ISO 10303.

- the connecting associations among the components constituting a assembled product;
- the associations among the components which are not physically connected;
- the relationships among the associations of the components;
- the description of the product composed of both the designed components and the standard components;
- the characteristic features of the associations among the components;
- the design, the analysis and the manufacturing preparation of the assembled products;

The following are outside of the scope of this part of ISO 10303

- the configuration management of the assemblies and the components;

2. Normative references

(To be completed)

3. Definitions

3.1 Terms defined in ISO 10303-1

This part of ISO 10303 makes use of the following terms in ISO 10303-1.

- **Assembly**: a product that is decomposable into a set of components or other assemblies from the perspective of a specific application.
- **Component**: a product that is not subject to decomposition from the perspective of a specific application.

3.2 Terms defined in ISO 10303-44

This part of ISO 10303 makes use of the following terms in ISO 10303-44.

- **Sub-assembly**: a constituent that is an assembly.

3.3 Other definitions

For the purpose of this part of ISO 10303, the following definitions apply.

3.3.1 component association: an association between a pair of mechanical parts and/or mechanical subassemblies.

3.3.2 assembly feature: an element to specify the associations between a pair of mechanical parts and/or mechanical subassemblies.

4. Assembly_model_schema

The following *EXPRESS* declaration begins the assembly_model_schema and identifies the necessary references.

EXPRESS specification:

```
*)
SCHEMA assembly_model_schema;

REFERENCE FROM product_definition_schema
  ( product_definition );
REFERENCE FROM product_property_definition_schema
  ( shape_aspect );
REFERENCE FROM product_property_definition_schema
  ( shape_aspect_relationship );
REFERENCE FROM action_schema
  ( action_method );
REFERENCE FROM product_structure_schema
  ( assembly_components_usage,
    next_assembly_usage_occurrence,
    product_definition_usage );
REFERENCE FROM kinematic_motion_representation_schema
  ( kinematic_path );
REFERENCE FROM kinematic_structure_schema
  ( kinematic_joint );
( *
```

4.1 Introduction

The objective of the assembly model presented in this document is to establish a neutral representation of assemblies of products, which are composed of sets of components. The products to be described by the assembly model are summarized in the followings.

(1) products composed of sets of components.

The products considered here are the assembled products composed of sets of the components. The whole products are called "assemblies", and the components of the lowest levels in the assemblies are called "parts". The components of the intermediate levels are called "sub-assemblies", which are composed of one or more parts and/or sub-assemblies. An assembly consists of one or more sub-assemblies and parts.

(2) Product structure configuration of assembly

Product structure configuration is now dealt with in ISO 10303 - 44 to describe the parts lists and the BOM (bill-of-material). Various structure configurations are given to one assembly depending on various contexts. For instance, one configuration of an assembly is considered in the design phase, and the structure configuration may be changed in the assembly process planning phase. The objective of the assembly model is to establish a model describing both the product structure configuration and the connecting associations among the components needed in the various design, analysis and manufacturing process planning phases.

(3) Standard parts

The assemblies include many standard parts, such as fixing bolts, keys, and electric motors. The standard parts are basically divided into two; they are, the standard parts included in the parts catalogues discussed in ISO TC 184/SC4/WG2, and the standard parts defined by the users.

The interest application fields of the assembly model are as follows.

(1) Kinematic analysis of mechanical assemblies

Kinematic analysis and simulation are very important application fields of the assembly model. ISO 10303-105 Kinematics supports the kinematic analysis, however, Part 105 is not sufficient to integrate the 3D-CAD systems and the kinematic analysis systems.

(2) Animation of mechanical assemblies

The animation of mechanical assemblies is very important for future extension of the digital-mockup technologies.

(3) Assembly/disassembly process planning

The assembly model will support the integration of the product design and the manufacturing preparation. The assembly process planning and the disassembly process planning are important application fields of the assembly model from the viewpoint of the integration of CAD and CAM systems.

(4) Tolerance analysis and synthesis

The tolerance analysis and synthesis of the complicated mechanical assembly are very important application fields of the assembly model.

4.2 Fundamental concept and assumptions (to be completed)

4.3 assembly_model_schema entity definitions

4.3.1 main_components_usage

An entity which represents the parent-child associations between a pair of components. This entity is a subtype of next_assembly_usage_occurrence in Part 44. The attribute related_product_definition of this entity specifies the main components of the parent component, which is specified by the attribute relating_product_definition.

```
* )  
ENTITY main_components_usage  
  SUBTYPE OF ( next_assembly_usage_occurrence );  
  auxiliary_components : SET [0,?] OF auxiliary_components_usage;  
END_ENTITY; --main_components_usage  
(*
```

Attribute definitions:

auxiliary_components: the set of auxiliary_component_usage, which specifies the parent-child associations between the parent product definition and the auxiliary_components_definitions.

4.3.2 auxiliary_components_usage

An entity which represents the parent-child associations between a pair of components. The attribute related_product_definition of this entity specifies the auxiliary components of the parent component, which is specified by the attribute relating_product_definition. The auxiliary components keep the association among the main components. When two body panels of an automotive are connected by a bolt, the bolt is the auxiliary component and the panels are the main components, respectively.

```
*)
ENTITY auxiliary_components_usage
  SUBTYPE OF ( next_assembly_usage_occurrence );
END_ENTITY; --auxiliary_components_usage
( *
```

4.4.3 components_association;

An abstract supertype entity which represents the peer to peer associations between a pair of components. The associations considered here are one to one (binary) associations between a pair of components.

```
*)
ENTITY components_association
  ABSTRACT SUPERTYPE OF ( ONEOF ( connection, relative_motion,
    relative_position_&_orientation ) )
  SUBTYPE OF ( product_definition_usage );
  assembly_feature_association : SET [0:?] OF assembly_feature_association;
END_ENTITY; --components_association
( *
```

Attribute definitions:

assembly_feature_association: the assembly_feature_association that specifies the detailed information about the interfaces of the components_associations.

4.4.4 connection;

An abstract supertype entity which represents the connections between a pair of components which are physically connected with each other. This entity is applied to describe the physical connections between the components.

```
*)
ENTITY connection
  ABSTRACT SUPERTYPE OF ( ONEOF ( movable_connection, fixed_connection,
    intermittent_connection ) )
  SUBTYPE OF ( components_association );
END_ENTITY; --connection
( *
```

4.4.5 movable_connection;

An entity which represents the associations between a pair of components which are physically connected and movable. This entity is applied to describe the possible relative motions between a pair of components and the properties of the joints, which constrain the components. Typical examples of the movable_connection are the shaft-bearing joints, slider-guide way joints, gear joints, and so on.

```
*)
ENTITY movable_connection
```



```

    SUBTYPE OF ( connection );
END_ENTITY; --movable_connection
( *

```

4.4.6 fixed_connection;

An entity which represents the connections between a pair of components which are physically connected and fixed. This entity is applied to describe the properties of the joints, which fix the components with each other. Typical examples of the fixed_connection are the welded joints, the key fastenings, the screw fastenings, and so on.

```

* )
ENTITY fixed_connection
    SUBTYPE OF ( connection );
END_ENTITY; --fixed_connection
( *

```

4.4.7 intermittent_connection;

An entity which represents the connections between a pair of components which are physically connected with each other intermittently. This entity is applied to describe the physical interfaces between the intermittently connected components, such as limit switches.

```

* )
ENTITY intermittent_connection
    SUBTYPE OF ( connection );
END_ENTITY; --intermittent_connection
( *

```

4.4.8 relative_motion;

An entity which represents the relative motions between a pair of components which are not physically connected with each other. This entity is applied to describe the relative motions. A relative motion of a robot hand against a base of the robot is a typical example of the relative motion. In this case, the robot hand is not connected directly with the base.

```

* )
ENTITY relative_motion
    SUBTYPE OF ( components_association );
END_ENTITY; --relative_motion
( *

```

4.4.9 relative_position_&_orientation;

An entity which represents the relative positions and orientations between a pair of components which are not physically connected with each other. This entity is applied to describe the relative position and orientation of the component against another component.

```

* )
ENTITY relative_position_&_orientation
    SUBTYPE OF ( components_association );
END_ENTITY; --relative_position_&_orientation
( *

```

4.4.10 properties of the components associations

The following entities represent the properties of the component associations mentioned above.

Note: The contents of the properties will be discussed and developed.

```

* )

```

```

ENTITY movable_connection_property;
  connection : movable_connection;
  kinematic_pair : kinematic_pair;
END_ENTITY; --movable_connection_property
( *

```

Attribute definitions:

connection: the movable_connection to which the property is given.

kinematic_pair : the kinematic_pair in Part 105 which represents and constrains the relative motion of the related_product_definition against the relating_product_definition.

```

*)
ENTITY fixed_connection_property;
  connection : fixed_connection;
END_ENTITY; --fixed_connection_property
( *

```

Attribute definitions:

connection: the fixed_connection to which the property is given.

```

*)
ENTITY intermittent_connection_property;
  connection : intermittent_connection;
  kinematic_pair : kinematic_pair;
END_ENTITY; --intermittent_connection_property
( *

```

Attribute definitions:

connection: the intermittent_connection to which the property is given.

kinematic_pair : the kinematic_pair in Part 105 which represents and constrains the relative motion of the related_product_definition against the relating_product_definition.

Note: Part 105 kinematics has not yet define the constraints on the intermittent joints.

```

*)
ENTITY relative_motion_property;
  relative_motion : relative_motion;
  kinematic_path : kinematic_path;
END_ENTITY; --relative_motion_property
( *

```

Attribute definitions:

relative_motion: the relative_motion to which the property is given.

kinematic_path : the kinematic_path in Part 105 which represents and constrains the relative motion of the related_product_definition against the relating_product_definition.

```

*)
ENTITY relative_position_&_orientation_property;
  relative_position_&_orientation : relative_position_&_orientation;
END_ENTITY; --relative_position_&_orientation_property
( *

```

Attribute definitions:

relative_position_&_orientation: the relative_position_&_orientation to which the property is given.

4.4.11 components_association_relationship

An abstract supertype entity which represents the relationship between a pair of components_associations.

```
*)
ENTITY components_association_relationship
  ABSTRACT SUPERTYPE OF ( ONEOF ( components_association_hierarchy,
    components_association_alternative ) );
  relating_components_association : components_association;
  related_components_association : components_association;
END_ENTITY; --components_association_relationship
(*
```

Attribute definitions:

relating_components_association: one of the components_associations which is a part of relationship.

related_components_association: the other components_associations which is a part of relationship.

4.4.12 components_association_hierarchy

An entity which represents the parent-child relationship (hierarchical relationship) between a pair of components_associations. For example, the components_association between a pair of subassemblies is a parent component_association of the components_association between a pair of parts included in these subassemblies. The relating_components_association is the parent association, and the related_components_association is the child association.

```
*)
ENTITY components_association_hierarchy
  SUBTYPE OF ( components_association_relationship );
END_ENTITY; --components_association_hierarchy
(*
```

4.4.13 component_association_alternative

An entity which represents the interchangeable relationships between a pair of components_associations. For example, if two components_associations defined for a same pair of components can be interchangeable, these two components_associations should be associated each other.

```
*)
ENTITY components_association_alternative
  SUBTYPE OF ( components_association_relationship );
END_ENTITY; --components_association_alternative
* (
```

4.4.14 assembly_feature_association

A subtype entity of the shape_aspect_relationship of Part 41, which represents the associations between pairs of assembly features from the viewpoint of the application fields of the assembly model. The assembly_feature_associations are the key elements for describing the associations between a pair of the mechanical components. The assembly feature association may specify a pair of shape aspects (= assembly features), on which two components are associated with each other.

```
*)
ENTITY assembly_feature_association
  SUBTYPE OF ( shape_aspect_relationship );
END_ENTITY; --assembly_feature_association
(*
```

4.4.15 assembly_feature

A subtype entity of the shape_aspect of Part 41, which represents the assembly features from the viewpoint of the application fields of the assembly model. The assembly features are the key elements for describing the shape aspects on which the components are associated with each other. The assembly feature may be the shape aspects, or the partial shape of the components, on which two components are associated with each other.

```
*)
ENTITY assembly_feature
  SUBTYPE OF ( shape_aspect );
END_ENTITY; --assembly_feature
( *
```

4.4.16 assembly_feature_association_property

An entity that represents the property of the assembly_feature_association.

```
*)
ENTITY assembly_feature_association_property;
  assembly_feature_association : assembly_feature_association;
END_ENTITY; --assembly_feature_association_property
( *
```

Attribute definitions:

assembly_feature_association : the assembly_feature_association to which the property is given.

Note: The contents of the properties will be discussed and developed.

4.4.17 assembly_feature_property

An entity that represents the property of the assembly_feature.

```
*)
ENTITY assembly_feature_property;
  assembly_feature : assembly_feature;
END_ENTITY; --assembly_feature_property
( *
```

Attribute definitions:

assembly_feature : the assembly_feature to which the property is given.

Note: The contents of the properties will be discussed and developed.

4.4.18 mechanical_product_definition

A subtype entity of the product_definition entity of Part41, which represents the definition of the mechanical products, such as assemblies, sub-assemblies, parts and standard parts.

```
*)
ENTITY mechanical_product_definition
  ABSTRACT SUPERTYPE OF ( ONEOF (mechanical_component_definition,
    standard_component_definition )
  SUBTYPE OF ( product_definition );
  action_method: SET [0:?] OF action_method;
END_ENTITY; --mechanical_product_definition
( *
```

Attribute definitions:

action_method : the action_method which represent the action methods related to the

mechanical_product_definition. The action methods include such as assembly process method, design process method, and so on.

4.4.19 mechanical_component_definition

A subtype entity of the mechanical_product_definition, which represents the definition of the mechanical components of the products, such as assemblies, subassemblies, and parts.

```
*)
ENTITY mechanical_component_definition
  ABSTRACT SUPERTYPE OF ( ONEOF ( mecchanical_assembly_definition,
    mechanical_subassembly_definition, mechanical_part_definition ) )
  SUBTYPE OF ( mechanical_product_definition );
END_ENTITY; --mechanical_component_definition
( *
```

4.4.20 mechanical_assembly_definition

A subtype entity of the mechanical_component_definition, which describes the definition of the assemblies composed of sets of parts and subassemblies.

```
*)
ENTITY mechanical_assembly_definition
  SUBTYPE OF ( mechanical_component_definition );
END_ENTITY; --mechanical_assembly_definition
( *
```

4.4.21 mechanical_subassembly_definition

A subtype entity of the mechanical_component_definition, which describes the definition of the subassemblies composed of sets of parts and other subassemblies.

```
*)
ENTITY mechanical_subassembly_definition
  SUBTYPE OF ( mechanical_component_definition );
END_ENTITY; --mechanical_subassembly_definition
( *
```

4.4.22 mechanical_part_definition

A subtype entity of the mechanical_product_definition, which describes the definition of the individual mechanical parts.

```
*)
ENTITY mechanical_part_definition
  SUBTYPE OF ( mechanical_component_definition );
END_ENTITY; --mechanical_part_definition
( *
```

4.4.23 standard_component_definition

A subtype entity of the mechanical_product_definition, which describes the definition of the standard components.

```
*)
ENTITY standard_component_definition
  SUBTYPE OF ( mechanical_product_definition );
END_ENTITY; --standard_component_definition
( *
```

4.4.24 standard_component_standard_part_model

An entity which connect the standard_component_definition and the standard_part_model which is defined in ISO 13584.

```
* )  
ENTITY standard_component_standard_part_model;  
  componet_definition : standard_component_definition;  
  part_model : standard_part_model;  
END_ENTITY; --standard_component_standard_part_model  
(*
```

Attribute definitions:

component_definition: the standard_component_definition which is a part of the assembly model.

part_model: the standard_part_model describing the standard part included in the assembly model. The standard_part_model shall be defined in ISO 13584 Standard Parts.

```
END_SCHEMA; -- assembly_model_schema
```

Annex A

(normative)

Short names of entities

(to be completed)

Annex B
(normative)
Information object registration

(to be completed)

Annex C
(informative)
Computer-interpretable listings

(to be completed)

Annex D
(informative)
EXPRESS-G figures

The EXPRESS-G representation for the schema defined in the subclauses 4 of this part of ISO 10303 are provided in the following figures.

Note: All the entities related with the assembly model schema is also included in the figure for the easy understanding of the model.

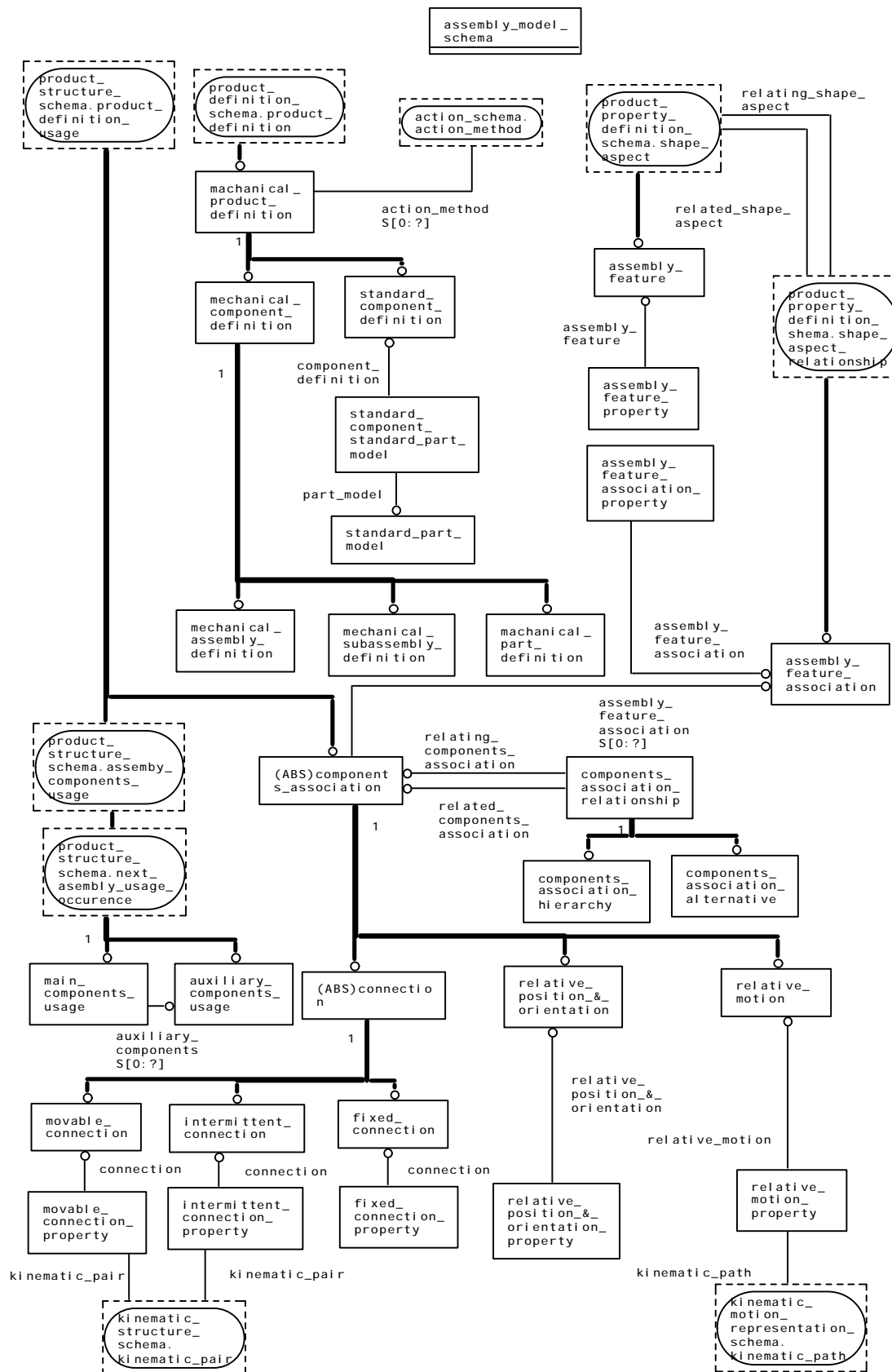


Fig. 1 EXPRESS-G diagram of assembly_model_schema

Annex E
(informative)
Explanation of Assembly Model of Products

1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this attachment is to present a basic idea and examples of the product model called an assembly model, which is applicable to describe the mechanical assemblies based on the STEP framework. In particular, emphasis is given to establish a data structure to represent the peer to peer associations among the components of the assemblies.

2. CONTENTS OF ASSEMBLY MODEL

2.1 Target Product

The target products to be represented by the assembly model are summarized as follows.

(1) products composed of sets of components.

The products considered here are the assembled products composed of sets of the components. The whole products are called "assemblies", and the components of the lowest levels in the assemblies are called "parts". The components of the intermediate levels are called "sub-assemblies", which are composed of one or more parts and/or sub-assemblies. An assembly consists of one or more sub-assemblies and parts.

(2) Product structure configuration of assembly

Product structure configuration is now dealt with in ISO 10303 - 44 to describe the parts lists and the BOM (bill-of-material). Various structure configurations are given to one assembly depending on various contexts. For instance, one configuration of an assembly is considered in the design phase, and the structure configuration may be changed in the assembly process planning phase. The objective of the assembly model is to establish a model describing both the product structure configuration and the connecting associations among the components needed in the various design, analysis and manufacturing process planning phases.

(3) Standard parts

The assemblies include many standard parts, such as fixing bolts, keys, and electric motors. The standard parts are basically divided into two; they are, the standard parts included in the parts catalogues discussed in ISO TC 184/SC4/WG2, and the standard parts defined by the users.

2.2 Interest Application Fields

The interest application fields of the assembly model are as follows.

(1) Kinematic analysis of mechanical assemblies

Kinematic analysis and simulation are very important application fields of the assembly model. ISO 10303-105 Kinematics supports the kinematic analysis, however, Part 105 is not sufficient to integrate the 3D-CAD systems and the kinematic analysis systems.

(2) Animation of mechanical assemblies

The animation of mechanical assemblies is very important for future extension of the digital-mockup technologies.

(3) Assembly/disassembly process planning

The assembly model will support the integration of the product design and the manufacturing preparation. The assembly process planning and the disassembly process planning are important application fields of the assembly model from the viewpoint of the integration of CAD and CAM systems.

(4) Tolerance analysis and synthesis

The tolerance analysis and synthesis of the complicated mechanical assembly are very important application fields of the assembly model.

2.3 Contents of Assembly Model

The contents of the assembly model are analyzed from the viewpoints of the design, the analysis and the manufacturing preparation of the mechanical products. The contents are classified into four classes. They are,

(1) Information of individual parts.

(2) Information of standard parts.

(3) Structure configuration of assembly

- a) Hierarchical associations (parent-child associations) among assemblies, subassemblies and parts.
- b) Positions and orientations of components in a higher level component.
- c) Tolerance of the positions and orientations

(4) Component Association

- a) Peer to peer associations among components.
- b) Relative positions and orientations of components against other components.
- c) Relative motions of components against other components.
- d) Tolerance of the relative motions, positions and orientations.
- e) Assembly features needed to define technological information of component associations.

Table 1 Contents of STEP model

Information	STEP Model
(1), (3)-a), (3)-b)	ISO 10303: Part 41 : Fundamentals of Product Description and Support.
(1)	ISO 10303: Part 42 : Geometric and Topological Representation.
(3)-b)	ISO 10303: Part 43 : Representation Structures.
(3)-a), (3)-b), (4)-b)	ISO 10303: Part 44 : Product Structure Configuration.
(1)	ISO 10303: Part 45 : Materials.
(1), (3)-a), (3)-b)	ISO 10303: Part 46 : Visual Presentation.
(1)	ISO 10303: Part 47 : Shape Tolerances.
	ISO 10303: Part 49 : Process Structure and properties.
(1), (3)-a), (3)-b)	ISO 10303: Part 101: Draughting.
(1)	ISO 10303: Part 104: Finite Element Analysis.
(4)-a), b), c)	ISO 10303: Part 105: Kinematics.
(2)	ISO 13584: Standard Parts

Most of the information mentioned above can be described by the integrated generic resources and application resources defined in the Parts of the STEP (ISO 10303). Table 1 summarizes the contents of the STEP model.

The information about the individual parts are represented by ISO 10303-41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47 and 49., and the information about the standard parts may be defined by ISO 13584.

As regards the assembly information (3) and (4), ISO 10303-44 Product Structure Configuration model provides a mechanism to represent (3)-a), (3)-b) and (4)-b). ISO 10303-105 Kinematics gives the mechanism to represent the relative motion between pairs of links that are a set of components fixed with each other.

Therefore, the assembly model deals with the following items of the mechanical products.

(4) Component Association

- a) Peer to peer associations among components.
- b) Relative positions and orientations of components against other components.
- c) Relative motions of components against other components.
- e) Assembly features needed to define technological information of component associations.

The following items related to the tolerances are considered in the other Part of this Standards.

(3) Structure configuration of assembly

c) Tolerance of the positions and orientations

(4) Component Association

d) Tolerance of the relative motions, positions and orientations.

3. BASIC IDEA OF ASSEMBLY MODEL

3.1 Assembly Features

Figure 1 (a) shows a simple example of the mechanical assembly, which consists of two plates and a fixing bolt. In this case, the connecting associations among the components are presented in the diagram of Fig. 1 (b). In the figure (b), the rectangular blocks show the shape elements on which a pair of components are connected and/or associated. The shape elements, such as planes, holes, screws and nuts, are called “assembly feature” in the assembly model.

The assembly features are the elemental entities for representing the peer to peer associations between a pair of components. For the example, two cases may be considered to represent the assembly features between the flange plate and the bolt in Fig. 1(b) .

CASE1: The each individual component has one assembly feature.

Assembly feature 1 of flange plate = Hole + Plane

Assembly feature 2 of bolt = Cylinder + Plane

CASE 2: The individual faces are defined as the individual features.

Assembly feature 11 of flange plate = Hole

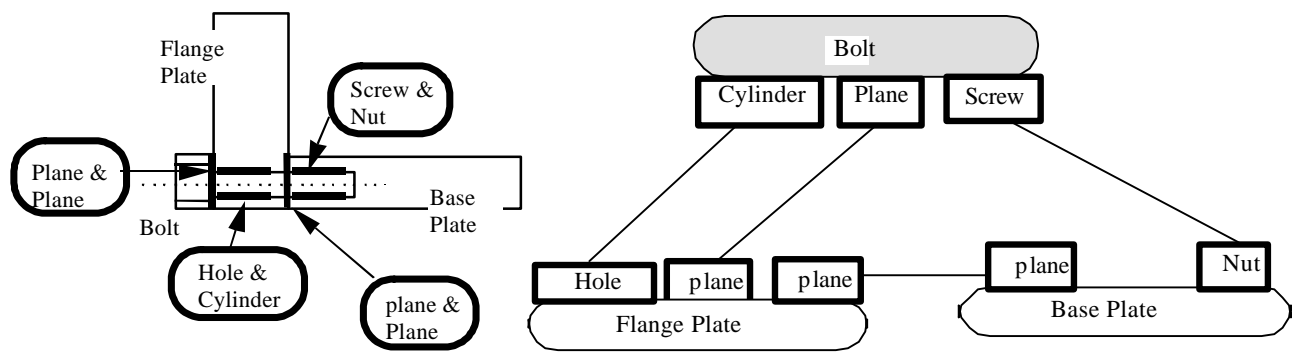
Assembly feature 12 of flange plate = Plane

Assembly feature 21 of bolt = Cylinder

Assembly feature 22 of bolt = Plane

The definition of the assembly feature depends on the various viewpoints and the application fields, therefore, both the assembly feature definition of CASE 1 and CASE 2 should be taken into consideration in the assembly model.

Figure 2 shows another example of the assembly of the automotive engines. In this case, the connecting associations include both the fixed connecting association and the movable connecting associations, as shown in Fig. 3. The types of the joints are described for the individual association between the pairs of the assembly features in Fig. 3. A spring part, an elastic component, is also included in the assembly.



(a) Drawing

(b) Connecting association among components

Fig. 1 Assembly model example 1: Two plates are fixed by a bolt

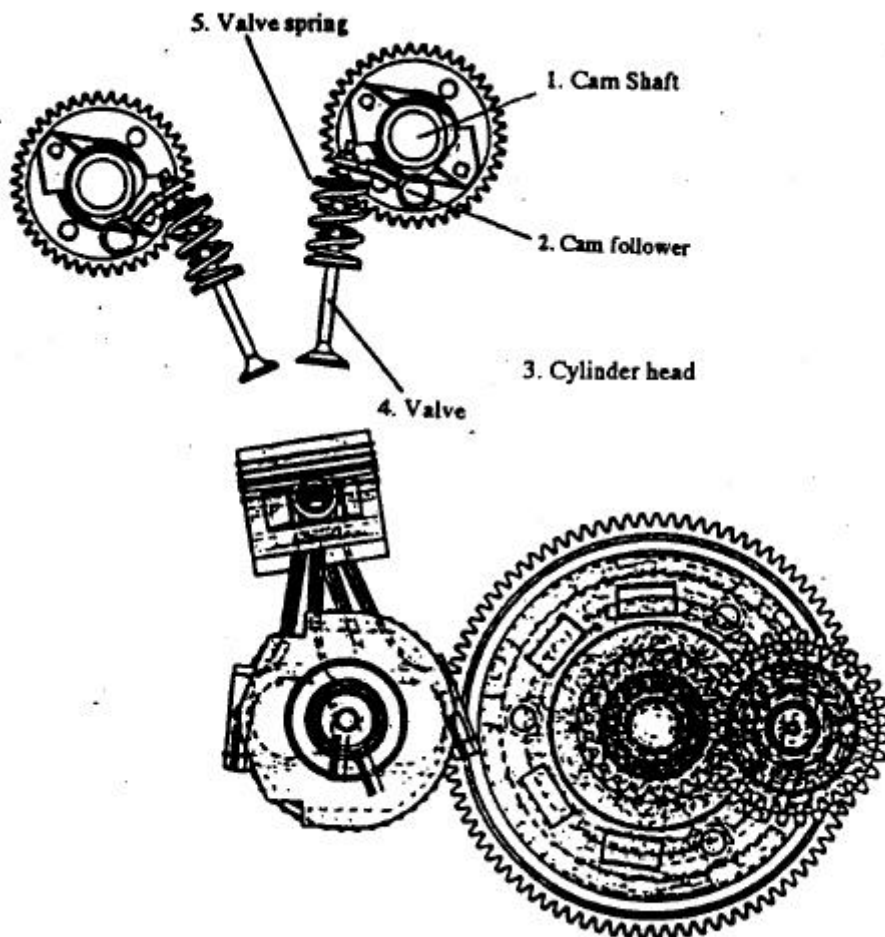


Fig. 2 Assembly model example 2: Automotive engine

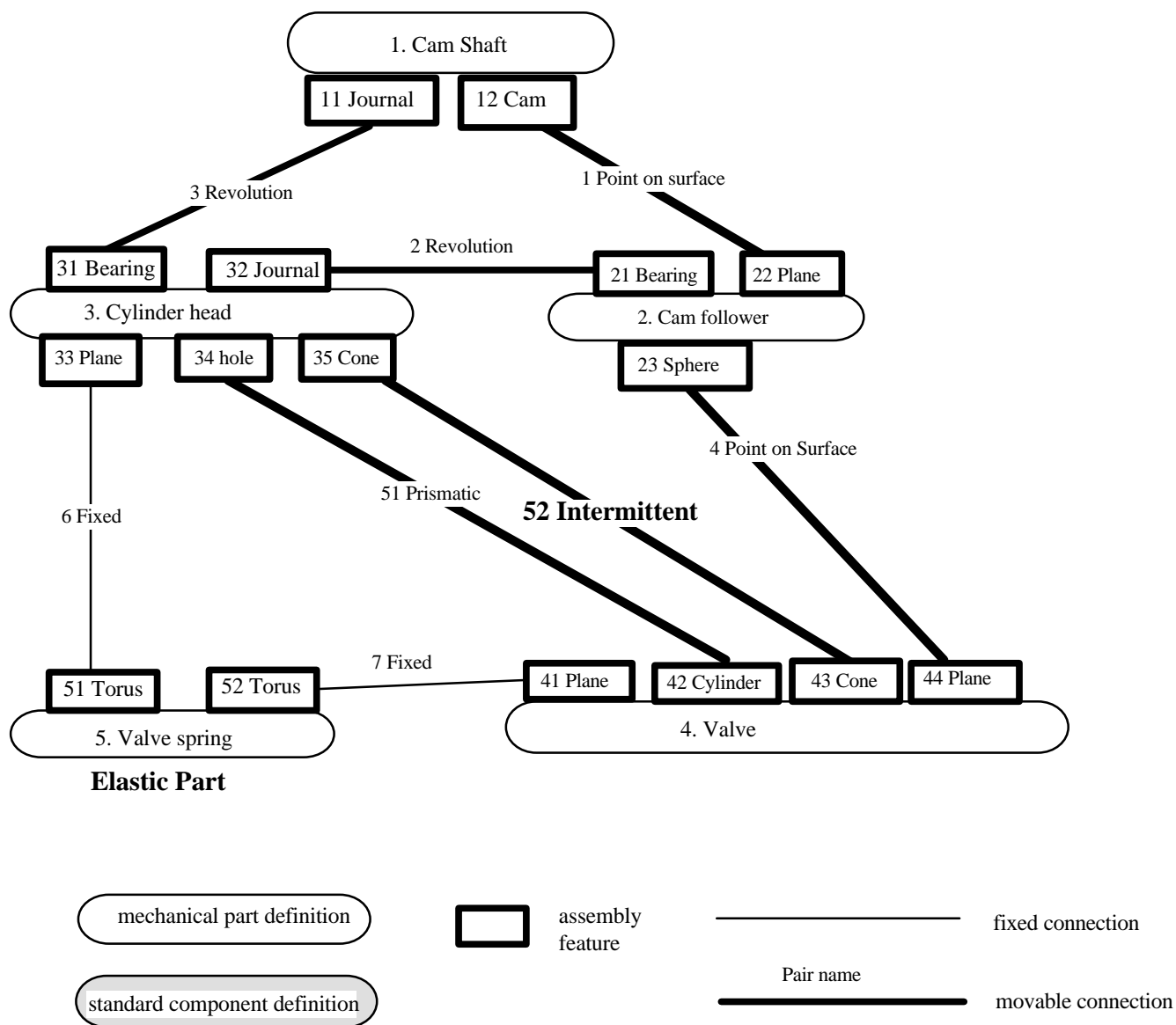


Fig. 3 Connecting associations of assembly model example 2

3.2 Basic Structure of Assembly Model

Basic structure of the assembly model considered here is shown in Fig. 4. In the figure, the boxes and the circles describe the components (assemblies, subassemblies, and parts) and the hierarchical associations (parent-child associations) among the component definitions, respectively.

The hierarchical associations are classified into two types.

(1) **main_component_usage**

This entity represents the parent-child associations between a pair of components, which are main and/or important components.

(2) **auxiliary_component_usage**

This entity represents the parent-child association between a pair of components, which are additional, and/or auxiliary components such as fixing bolts, rivets and so on.

In the case of the assembly shown in Fig. 1 (b), the hierarchical associations are as follows.

(a) Assembly \leftarrow **main_component_usage** \rightarrow Flange plate

(b) Assembly \leftarrow **main_component_usage** \rightarrow Base plate

(c) Assembly \leftarrow **auxiliary_component_usage** \rightarrow Bolt

The solid circles in Fig. 4 show the components associations (peer to peer associations) among the components (assemblies, subassemblies, and parts). For examples, all the arcs in Fig. 1 (b) and Fig. 3 represent the peer to peer associations. The details of the components associations are described by the assembly feature associations and the assembly features.

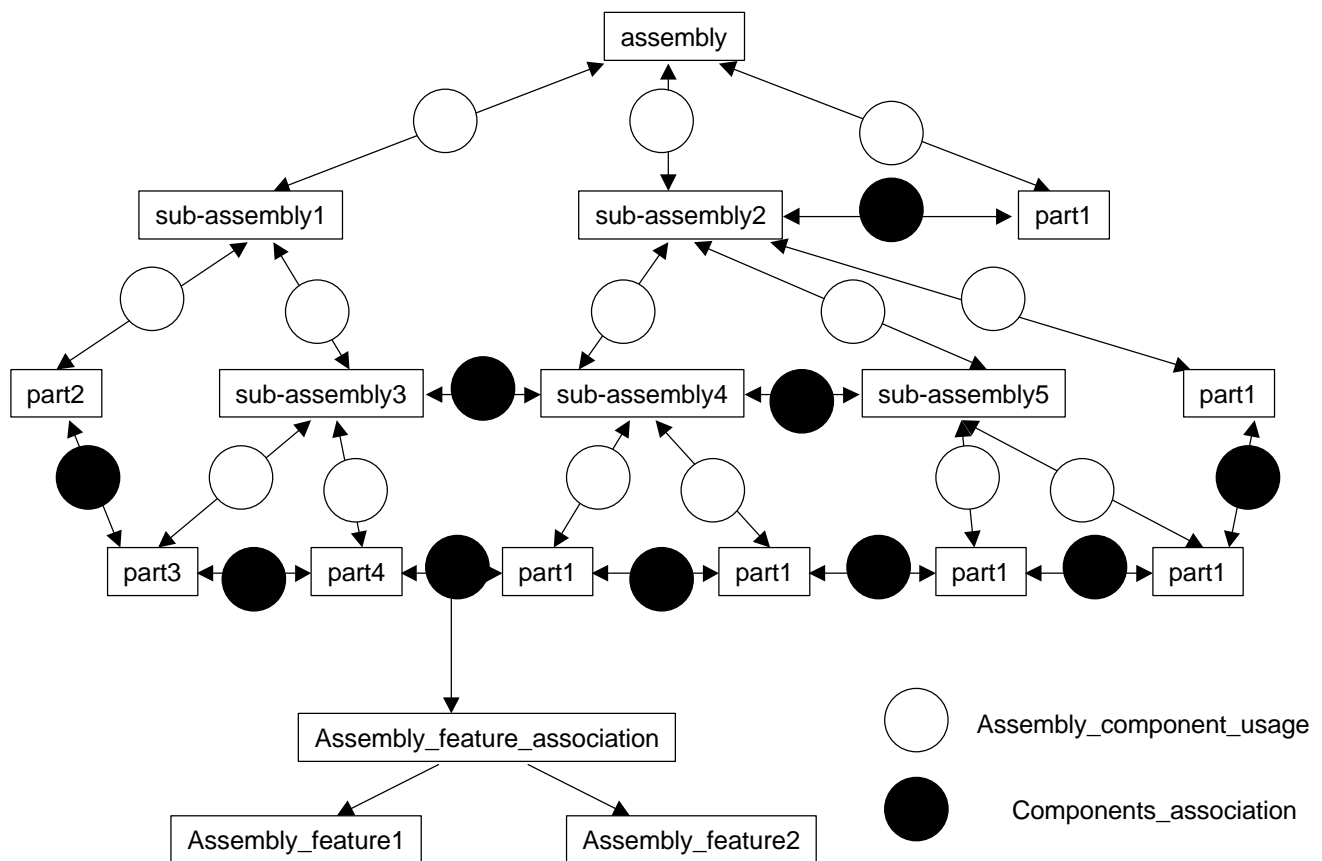


Fig. 4 Basic structure of assembly model

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(to be completed)